

Cumberland School Site Council
Meeting Minutes
DATE: March 10, 2025
TIME: 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm
Front Office Conference Room

Present: Laurie Carlson, Mary Moorman, Stacie Rodriguez, Siva Hari, Bradley Scholten, Grace Kim, Christy Naderi, Vince Iwasaki

Absent: Deepali Suri

Ms. Carlson called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm.

1. Review and approval of previous Meeting Minutes ([linked](#))
 - a. Laurie called for a motion to approve; Christy seconded. Vote held. Outcome: Minutes are approved as presented.
2. Review and Discussion of [School Homework Guidelines and Practices](#)
 - a. Guest: Sunnyside Middle School Principal, Mr. Iwasaki
 - i. Ms Carlson shared the discussion process, indicating this is the first discussion of homework for this committee. Homework guidelines were previously shared and committee members were asked to review prior to today's meeting. All committee members confirmed they had previewed the guidelines. No summary necessary.
 - ii. Grace Kim previously requested this topic for review. She was invited to share feedback she has heard from parents related to homework
 1. 30-40 parents have shared that they would like this topic brought up
 2. There's a sense that post-COVID, there is not as much homework assigned
 3. wanting homework as a way to support students learning to build responsibility/habits around schedule/routine, and stamina
 4. desire for low-time, not high-time homework – not high academic stakes
 5. experience of parents is that if teachers aren't requiring it, it won't get done (ie - 20 minutes of reading)
 6. parents paying for extra services to support students, feeling like homework from school would replace need for that extra service/structure
 7. acknowledged that culture differences exist in perspective on homework (its purpose, importance, value)
 8. accountability motivates some, but not all teachers are holding students accountable.
 9. there are discrepancies between teachers in the same grade and from grade to grade
 10. Does homework reflect on the priorities
 11. Parents are seeking structure and Kumon provides that structure, but it costs money
 - iii. Council reviewed where guidelines address shared concerns
 1. Reading has always been a requirement at every grade. The guidelines indicate "following the '10-minutes per grade level' of homework. This includes daily reading and additional content-based practice when/if necessary."
 - a. Parent experience is that their children don't know it's required so they don't do it

- b. One member shared experience that attention to reading accountability to support comprehension is important, for example, book reports can be an accountability structure for some. It was noted that they are not as effective for others; added to the stress to the kids
 - 2. To address the parent and school interest in parents knowing what students are doing to support having conversations at home and/or to supplement, the guidelines have a section on page 2 indicating that classroom newsletters should be used as a source for informing the academic topics being addressed each week.
 - 3. To address the parent and school's interest in developing study habits, etc, the guidelines explain that "students will be taught and will practice techniques in the classroom around allocating time wisely, meeting deadlines and developing good study habits through short term and longer-term assignments."
- iv. Notes from other members:
 - 1. Reading logs can be helpful for accountability. Research has shown that requiring reading logs can impact students' intrinsic motivation to read and develop their love of reading. Some families like the reading log and some don't.
 - 2. Kids behave differently for parents and teachers - they'll do it if the teacher requires it
 - 3. Some parents looking for some structure for kids to do after reaching home
 - 4. Studies show that homework is not always beneficial to students in Elementary school
 - 5. Parent teacher conference can be a place where this can be addressed
 - a. Every kid's needs are different after going home
 - 6. There are trade-offs between having standardization vs. fully custom homework solution
 - 7. Parents may not know what's happening in the school to be able to discuss what's being learned with children and possibly supplement at home; this is addressed in the guidelines at the top of the first page under the bulleted list.
 - 8. Could a survey help to better understand how many students are reading at home (20 mins per night) with or without a reading log or some form of school accountability structure?
 - a. Is there an issue of accountability? Some families must be following it.
 - 9. The council reviewed Sunnyvale Middle School Homework Policy.
 - a. 6th grade serves as a transition: supporting students with habit building
 - b. Follows 10 mins per grade guidance similar to Cumberland
 - c. Students have homework time in homeroom several days a week to get some of their homework done
 - 10. Middle school principal shared his experience with his own children around the impact of social media on reducing their opportunities to exercise their imaginations and creativity at home.
 - 11. Some concerns raised that parents are not aware of the homework guidance.
 - a. Ms. Carlson indicated that Back-to-school night is a place where teachers communicate to parents about their homework policies

- b. Ms. Carlson acknowledged that there still seems to be a gap in communication and understanding about homework amongst parents. Consider ways to communicate the information in addition to Back to School Night - particularly the school guidelines which are not presented in teacher presentations.
- 12. Teacher members and Ms. Carlson reiterated that if a parent has feedback or is looking for more support with academic or habit building structures for afterschool - it's important to reach out to the teacher to partner together around the goals parents have for their children in this area.
- 3. Discussion of Shade Opportunities On Campus
 - a. Tabled for next meeting
- 4. Continue Review and Input on School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and Related LCAP Goals
 - a. Tabled for next meeting
- 5. Review Staff Development Grant Requests (if applicable)
 - a. None
- 6. Input for next agenda/Community input for next agenda
 - a. None
- 7. Ms. Carlson proposed adding a 7th meeting. Committee members agreed. April 7th was proposed. Ms. Carlson will follow up to confirm.

Next meeting:

DATE: TBD (tentatively 4/7/25)

TIME: 2:45-4:00 pm

LOCATION: Cumberland Front Office Conference Room

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Mary Moorman and Siva Hari

Meeting Minutes Approved on: 4/21/25